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CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A composite pallet, comprising:  
an upper deck, comprising,  
    a first half,  
    a second half disposed in communication with a major face of said first half, and  
    a support material disposed between said first half and said second half;  
an upper frame member supporting said upper deck;  
a plurality of foot members disposed in physical contact with said upper frame member;  
and  
a lower frame member disposed in physical contact with said plurality of foot members.
2. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 1, wherein said first half and said second half further comprise protrusions extending therefrom, said protrusions on said first half being correspondingly matable with said protrusions on said second half.
3. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 2, wherein said protrusions include holes, and wherein said holes define about 5% to about 40% open space in said upper deck.
4. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 3, wherein said holes effectuate fluid communication between said first half and said second half.
5. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 4, wherein said holes of said first half include material extending from edges of said holes, said material being inserted through said holes of said second half and deformed to retain said first half to said second half.
6. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 3, wherein said protrusions on said first half are attached to said protrusions on said second half to join said first half to said second half.

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7. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 1, wherein edge portions of said first half are crimped to edge portions of said second half such that holes in said first half align with holes in said second half.

8. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 1, wherein said support material comprises foam.

9. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 8, wherein said foam is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polystyrene, polyethylene, and combinations of the foregoing materials.

10. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 1, wherein said upper frame member further comprises a post extending therefrom through a hole in said upper deck, said post being deformed to retain said upper deck to said upper frame member.

11. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 1, wherein said upper frame member includes a rounded outer edge.

12. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 1, wherein said lower frame member includes a rounded outer edge.

13. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 1, wherein said foot member includes a rounded outer surface.

14. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 1, wherein each of said foot members is collapsible.

15. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 1, wherein said first half and said second half are formed and attached via a twin sheet thermo-forming technique.

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16. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 1, wherein said upper deck comprises a composite polymer material formable into said first half and said second half of said upper deck.

17. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 16, wherein said composite polymer material comprises,

a biaxial weave of fibrous polymer, and

a sheet of polymer bonded to said biaxial weave of fibrous polymer.

18. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 17, wherein said biaxial weave of fibrous polymer is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, and combinations of the foregoing materials.

19. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 17, wherein said biaxial weave of fibrous polymer further comprises an additive selected from the group consisting of fibrous glass, fibrous carbon, UV stabilizing compounds, biocidal compounds, and combinations of the foregoing materials.

20. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 1, wherein said upper deck comprises a non-skid surface.

21. (Original) The composite pallet of Claim 1, wherein said upper deck is bowed out of the plane thereof.

22. (Currently Amended) A pallet, comprising:  
a plurality of ribs spaced parallel to each other;  
a plurality of cross beams positioned transverse to each rib of said plurality of ribs to support said plurality of ribs; and  
a puncture-resistant film disposed over said plurality of ribs and said plurality of cross beams;  
wherein a side of the pallet comprising the puncture-resistant film is bowed out of the plane thereof in a direction opposite to a deflection of the pallet under load.

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23. (Currently Amended) ~~The A pallet of Claim 22, comprising:~~

\_\_\_\_\_ a plurality of ribs spaced parallel to each other;  
\_\_\_\_\_ a plurality of cross beams positioned transverse to each rib of said plurality of ribs  
to support said plurality of ribs; and  
\_\_\_\_\_ a puncture-resistant film disposed over said plurality of ribs and said plurality of  
cross beams;

wherein said puncture-resistant film includes a non-skid surface embossed thereon.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~The A pallet of Claim 23, comprising:~~

\_\_\_\_\_ a plurality of ribs spaced parallel to each other;  
\_\_\_\_\_ a plurality of cross beams positioned transverse to each rib of said plurality of ribs  
to support said plurality of ribs; and  
\_\_\_\_\_ a puncture-resistant film disposed over said plurality of ribs and said  
plurality of cross beams;

wherein said puncture-resistant film includes a non-skid film attached thereto.